

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 CU-04 FBO-01

AID-20 NEA-10 PC-15 DRC-01 /189 W

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P R 161056Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5470

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, ASEC, IS

SUBJECT: KUALA LUMPUR DEMONSTRATIONS - AFTERNOON OCT 16

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 4564

B. KUALA LUMPUR 4538

C. KUALA LUMPUR 4536

1. AFTER DEMONSTRATING IN FRONT OF A.I.A. BUILDING UNTIL 1220 (REF A), STUDENTS MARCHED EN MASSE TO USIS LINCOLN CENTER. POLICE LINED FRONT OF LIBRARY BUT ROCKS WERE THROWN PAST THEIR HEADS AND ONE OF TWO LARGE WINDOWS BROKEN (USIS REPORTING SEPTTEL). CROWD WAS LED BY ANWAR IBRAHIM, PRESIDENT, MALAYSIAN YOUTH COUNCIL, AND LEADER OF THE ANGKATAN BELIA ISLAM MALAYSIA (ABIM), AN ORGANIZATION RECENTLY ACCUSED INDIRECTLY BY UMNO YOUTH PRESIDENT DATO HARUN IDRIS OF WORKING TO CREAT "DISUNITY AND SUSPICION", ALLEGEDLY WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD (FOR WHICH READ LIBYA).

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2. AS DEMONSTRATION BECAME NOISIER, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

GHAZALI SHAFIE ARRIVED AT SITE AND ATTEMPTED TO DISPERSE CROWD BY SAYING THAT GOM HAD ALREADY MADE ITS VIEWS IN SUPPORT OF ARABS PUBLICALLY KNOWN, THAT DEMONSTRATORS HAD ACCOMPLISHED OBJECTIVE OF REGISTERING PROTEST, AND THAT UNLICENSED DEMONSTRATIONS WERE UN-MALAYSIAN, ILLEGAL ACTS. WHILE CROWD BOOED AND HECKLED GHAZALIS, ANWAR DEMANDED REITERATION GOM SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE, DENUNCIATION OF US ROLE IN SUPPORT OF ISRAELI, AND PERMANENT CLOSURE LINCOLN CENTER. GHAZALI SAID THIS BEYOND HIS COMPETENCE AND DEMONSTRATORS SHOULD SEND DELEGATION TO SEE PRIME MINISTER RAZAK. ANWAR AGREED SEND 15 PERSONS SEE RAZAK BUT DEMANDED CENTER REMAIN CLOSED IN INTERIM OR DEMONSTRATORS WOULD BURN IT DOWN. ANWAR THEN DISPERSED DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY TO THE MOSQUE TO PRAY.

3. COMMENT: DEMONSTRATIONS BY MOSLEM STUDENTS, EGGED ON BY OWN LEADERS AS WELL AS BY SUPPORTERS OF LEFT-WING WITHIN STUDENT MOVEMENT, POSE ACUTELY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR GOM. ON ONE HAND, RIGID ADHERENCE TO EXISTING LAWS AGAINST SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS SEEMS IN ORDER, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW BANGKOK RIOTS. ON OTHER, LOW VISIBILITY OF POLICE TODAY AS COMPARED WITH SATURDAY, CONFIRMS OUR VIEW THAT GOM UNWILLING TO BE TOO LEGALISTIC OR HEAVY-HANDED AGAINST A PRO-ARAB DEMONSTRATION WHICH WAS UNDER REASONABLE SELF-CONTROL AND WHICH CAUSED RELATIVELY MINOR DAMAGE. POLICE OFFICIALS ARE WORKING HARD TO REASSURE US THAT THEY WILL TOLERATE SOME LETTING OFF STEAM, BUT WATCHING SITUATION CAREFULLY AND WILL MOVE AGAINST STUDENT LEADERS IF THEY BEGIN TO GET OUT OF HAND. LYDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUALA04581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LYDMAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731030/aaaaavrb.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. KUALA LUMPUR 4564
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUALA LUMPUR DEMONSTRATIONS - AFTERNOON OCT 16
TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, MY, IS, XF, XI, MALAYSIAN YOUTH COUNCIL, ABIM, ANGKATAN BELIA ISLAM MALAYSIA, (ANWAR IBRAHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005